

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07 AID-20

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SP-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, UN, OECD, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS VIEWS ON EMINENT PERSONS REPORT ON MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS

REF: A) STATE 137390; B) BERN 2452

1. LEVY,HPN CHARGE OECD AFFAIRS, AND STAEHELIN,P DAC AND DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS, BOTH OF SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE, IN MEETING WITH EMBOFF JULY 2 INDICATED GOS AGREES IN GENERAL WITH US VIEWS ON EMINENT PERSONS REPORT ON MNCS AND ON HANDLING DISCUSSION IN OECD INVESTMENT EXPERTS GROUP JULY 8-9. THEY ALSO COMMENTED ON VERY NEGATIVE TONE OF REPORT.

2. SWISS OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT REPORT CONFUSES MNCS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH OMRE GENERAL QUESTION OF DIRECT INVESTMENT IN SUCH COUNTRIES AND THAT MAJOR STRESS IS PUT ON LATTER ASPECT. THEY ALSO THOUGHT IT REGRETTABLE THAT PART III OF REPORT CONTAINING DISSENTS

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WAS ISSUED LATER AND RECEIVED MUCH LESS PRESS AND PUBLIC

ATTENTION.

3. STAEHELIN RECALLED HIS COMMENTS AT RECENT DAC DISCUSSION OF REPORT, PARTICULARLY SUGGESTION THAT OECD SECRETARIAT MAKE AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF REPORT, INCLUDING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. ALL RELEVANT SECRETARIAT EXPERTS, E.G., FISCAL AFFAIRS, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES, COULD PARTICIPATE IN STUDY WHICH COULD PERHAPS BE FINISHED IN FALL AFTER INITIAL ECOSOC DISUCSSION.

4. SWITZERLAND IS NOT A MEMBER OF ECOSOC BUT SWISS OFFICIALS THOUGHT SUGGESTION PARA 8B REFTTEL A FOR COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT REPS TO REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS, ETC., AND REPORT IN YEAR MADE GOOD SENSE. THEY THOUGHT COMMITTEE OF INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR STANDING WOULD NOT ADVANCE MATTERS, AND CONVENING COMMITTEE REPRESENTING GOVERNMENTS WOULD FORCE SOME WESTERN GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS. IN THIS CONNECTION, SWISS SAID THEY HAD RECENTLY DETECTED SOME IMPROVEMENT IN ATTITUDE OF SWEDEN AND DENMARK TO HANDLING MNC ISSUES IN MULTILATERAL BODIES.

5. WITH REGARD TO SUBSTANCE, SWISS OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR PERSONNEL VIEW THAT IDEA OF FACILITIES FOR IMPROVED INFORMATION IN UN SECRETARIAT WAS USEFUL SUGGESTION (PARA 8C REFTTEL A) BUT THEY WOULD BE AGAINST CREATION OF AUTONOMOUS CENTER OR OF UN BODY ASSUMING ROLE IN SPECIFIC INVESTMENT DECISIONS.

6. SWISS OFFICIALS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT OTHER TYPES OF MNCs, BESIDES MANUFACTURING FACILITIES, IN LDCs SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND, FOR EXAMPLE BANKING, INSURANCE, AND OTHER SERVICES AND STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES AFFILIATED WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

7. SWISS AGREED THAT OECD/ECOSOC COORDINATION (PARA 6 REFTTEL A) ON MNC ISSUES WOULD BE USEFUL BUT HAD NO SUGGESTION ON HOW IT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. THEY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE RE OAS WORK ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MNC ISSUES, MENTIONED PARA 8B REFTTEL A.
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